

and has worked on a series of videotapes on financial aid for students. The videotapes aired on Public Broadcasting Stations in the New York tri-state area. For many years she was a consultant to ESPN on selecting the High School Athlete of the Year. Deborah is currently a member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Task Force on BCAT, President of the Rutland Road Block Association and a member of numerous other organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Deborah Battle Pointer and her commitment to the children of Brooklyn, New York. I also want to thank Ms. Pointer for sharing her gifts with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful and talented woman.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF DAVID BROWN

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true public servant of South Carolina's Second Congressional District. David Brown, chief executive officer of Beaufort Memorial Hospital of Beaufort, South Carolina, passed away Monday, March 19, 2007. Brown fell ill last month and was hospitalized at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he passed.

Brown ably led the hospital during a time of tremendous growth. The facility is now twice the size it was when Brown took over in 1996. During his tenure as CEO, Brown developed a long-term affiliation with Duke University Health System in heart and cancer care. Most recently, he worked with Beaufort to bring additional workforce housing to the area and led the hospital's expansion of services across the Broad River.

Brown, son of Emerson M. Brown and the late Winifred Ryan Brown, was born in 1951 in Germany, where his father was assigned as a U.S. foreign service officer. Brown also lived in India, the Netherlands, and Canada and attended high school in Switzerland and in Maine. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1974 and a masters of business administration with honors in 1976, both from Boston University.

Brown began his career in healthcare in 1976 as assistant executive director of Prince George's County Foundation for Medical Care in Landover, Md., and became executive director within a year.

In 1982 he joined the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington as vice president for professional services. Before leaving the Washington area in 1996, Brown became president and CEO of the Greater Southeast Community Hospital Foundation, which operated two hospitals as well as long-term care facilities, home health agencies, pharmacies and other health care-related businesses.

Brown is survived by his daughter, Caitlin Ryan Brown; son, Ryan David Brown; father, Emerson Brown of Reed City, Mich.; sister, Catherine W. Brown of Washington; and brother, Christopher G. Brown of Columbus, Ohio.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDETTE AUDIGE

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident, Ms. Claudette Audige. Claudette Audige was born on December 7, 1962, in Kingston, Jamaica. She has been a resident of New York for more than 21 years. Ms. Audige is the wife of Andre Audige and the mother of 3 beautiful children, Chase, Chad and Jodie.

Claudette Audige has been an experienced loan consultant for more than 20 years. She is noted for her wisdom and compassion for encouraging home ownership. She has inspired and helped many people to save their homes as well as purchase a home.

Most of Mrs. Audige's extensive community involvement has been with young people. She was a counselor at Good Samaritan Church, in the Bronx, and St. Michaels, in Sheldon, New York. Her community activities include participation in the McDonald's sing along concert series, a drug awareness campaign, and the neighborhood gang violence awareness program. The assistance she provides for children goes beyond the call of duty since she works closely with the youth in her community.

She is sensitive to the needs of homeowners and it is out of that compassion that led her to become a financial consultant. In addition, the high rate of housing foreclosures among her friends and family was another incentive for her to embark on this profession. Claudette gives workshops to new homeowners and advises them of their financial status. Due to her own past financial hardships, she has developed a flair for assisting people to accumulate wealth through the power of prayer and financial wisdom. Financial empowerment guides and motivates Mrs. Audige to teach others to accumulate wealth and prosperity.

This extraordinary woman goes above and beyond the call of duty and is commendable to the standards befitting the praised, virtuous woman described in Proverbs.

Her motto is "if I can help someone let my living be in vain." Claudette Audige strives to educate the young and the old to possess the knowledge of financial wisdom. She believes that everyone can own a home with the proper education.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive works of Claudette Audige as well as her commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for all that she does for current and prospective homeowners.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE HUNTINGTON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

##### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Huntington Veterans Af-

fairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Huntington, West Virginia. I am so proud to report that the Huntington VAMC was named the "Best Performing Facility" for 2006.

This is a well deserved honor for the dedicated employees of the Huntington VAMC who work so hard to ensure that our Nation's veterans receive the quality they deserve. This honor is even greater considering this is not the first time the Huntington VAMC has been singled out for its high quality care. Just two years ago, this center received similar recognition from the VA.

It is wonderful to know that the veterans who call West Virginia home have such a top-notch medical facility to provide care. As we all recognize, our veterans are our heroes and these heroes deserve only the best care available.

It is important that we remember our veterans have given so much to the future of our country and have asked for so little in return. Our veterans, as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and prayers of all West Virginians.

I am honored that the Huntington VAMC is in my district. I hope that this entire body will take a minute to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the Huntington VAMC and to honor the sacrifices that our brave servicemembers have made and continue to make.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AY'TASHA T. HANTON

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Ay'Tasha T. Hanton. Ms. Hanton is the proud daughter of Edna M. Fulton, and Willie E. Hanton Sr., stepdaughter of Maudine Hanton, who she affectionately calls "Mom." Ay'Tasha was born in New York City as the only daughter of seven children. Ay'Tasha's father expired when she was 1½ years old. Without the relationship of her father, she faced many challenges. With the loving support of her mother, family and friends, she matured into a strong, independent woman.

A nine-year employee of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Ay'Tasha has extensive knowledge in Finance Administration, Policy and Procedures, Performance Improvement, Graphic Design, Community Affairs and Healthcare Administration. In April of 1998, her career in health care began when she became the Coordinating Manager of Chemical Dependency Outpatient Services and the Mental Health Geriatric Program at Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center serving the Fort Greene Community. As an Assistant to the Sr. Associate Director, Ay'Tasha worked diligently to aide the Chemical Dependency patients who strived daily to maintain sobriety from their addictions. She also worked attentively to aide the Geriatric population as they faced the uneasiness of Mental Health.

In October of 2005, Ay'Tasha was reassigned as the NYS OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) Administrator of Chemical Dependency Inpatient and Outpatient Services at Woodhull Medical